

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, February 6, 1986

Published Since 1877

## The instrument

There it was, hanging on a peg in the back shed,  
My Ma-Ma's hoe, that had gone through many handles.  
A decayed, splintered stick hung from the hoe's round eye,  
Like the pendulum of a clock that forgot to run.

Never think that hoe was incidental to Ma-Ma,  
It was an instrument that in her house played many parts,  
Not too expensive; not too heavy — versatile and efficient,  
Most especially when wielded by Scotch-Irish Ma-Ma.

With that hoe she challenged a black-racer that slid into her yard,  
She hacked down the tall weeds that stalked the mail box,  
She tended the garden that was food for her family table,  
and she even scraped the yards — front and back — on Saturdays.

That hoe was a part of Ma-Ma's life that was relevant,  
She kept it sharp and bright, because she knew her needs.  
Along with kerosene and tallow; catnip tea and hot poultices,  
She lived out her days; hung up the hoe and went to rest.

Years had passed before I came to see that hoe again,  
Handle rotted, blade rusty, it hung on the wall,  
Abandoned and silent, with no more work to do,  
An instrument whose day had passed and gone.

Remembering Ma-Ma, I had long thoughts of sadness,  
My mind went back. There I stood as a child,  
Watching Ma-Ma iron clothes with a "sad" iron under the mulberry tree,  
Or fight grass among the rows of beans and cabbage in the garden.

The subject of "instruments" became relative to me.  
In distant lands Charles and I offered ourselves,  
By the Lord's mighty Hand, to plant and cultivate — to clear away  
The weeds and undergrowth of darkness, fear and indifference.

For thirty-eight years we have been missionaries,  
We know the inexpressible joy of being used.  
We know that we are his instruments of blessing,  
Imperfect and weak — yet bearers of the Good News.

The present filtered through the past is a powerful teacher,  
As memory does an instant replay of years gone by.  
One day I sat in my home in a small West African country,  
By tape I heard the words of an old American folk hymn.

The half-forgotten words suddenly seemed so new,  
As to my heart I took the old refrain,  
"How long has it been . . ." came the piercing, personal question,  
"Since you knew that he cared for you?"

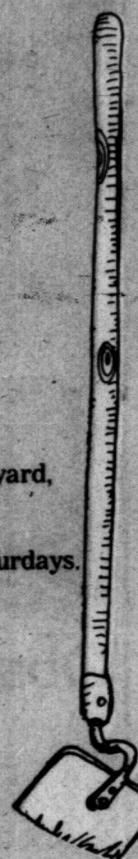
"I have become instrument obsessed," I thought,  
I have so often thought of being the instrument the Lord needs,  
And doing the work he has in mind, that I have overlooked the fact  
That he cared everlastingly for me, long before I became an instrument.

"He cares for me. He cares for ME! . . . as a person; not just as a tool,  
He cares that a mail strike left us sixty days with no letters from home.

He cares that we can't see a single one of our twelve grandchildren,  
He cares that our mothers are sick and we are oceans away.

God loves the instrument — not just for the sake of doing the job,  
Of sowing Precious Seed in this wide world.  
He loves each instrument tenderly, personally, compassionately  
And every day he says, "Rest in My love. I care for YOU!"

—Indy Whitten, missionary  
Equatorial Guinea



## Fruitful Philippines crusades spur growth amid civil unrest

By Marty Croll

MANILA, Philippines (BP) — Year-end crusades producing more than 4,500 new Christian believers and the promise of dozens of new congregations capped a five-year period of rapid church growth in the Philippines.

Filipinos are making personal decisions to accept Christ in record numbers, according to Southern Baptist missionary Jim Slack, director of church growth in the Philippines. The response continues as more than 150 missionaries work with nationals to start churches in a land beset by civil unrest.

The two Baptist conventions of churches in the Philippines have been scrambling to reach five-year goals set in 1980. Between 1980 and the end of last year churches of the Mindanao Baptist Convention in the south more than doubled their number from 447 to 940. Their goal was 1,085. The Luzon convention, based in Manila, is expected to swell from 158 to more than 300 by the middle of the year. Its goal was 500.

In Manila an average of 5,000 people each night attended an eight-day crusade staged by five associations and 75 churches Nov. 24 through Dec. 1. John Bisagno, pastor of First Church, Houston, Tex., preached during the crusade. At an interdenominational prayer breakfast, Manila Mayor Ramon Bagatsing presented Bisagno a key to his city of about six million people.

More than 1,600 people made personal decisions for Jesus Christ during the services. "A lady came in mourning for her husband, who was murdered just two weeks prior," said Harvey Kneisel, a Bisagno Crusade adviser. "A missionary, Mrs. Harold Matthews, came out of the choir to see if she was needed to counsel, though she spoke only the language of an area very remote from Manila. Her language was that of the widow. She led her to faith in Christ."

Though reports were incomplete, missionaries believe as many as 300 home Bible studies that will be used to start new congregations were set up in preparation for the crusade.

Also, on the island of Luzon, Southern Baptist missionaries from seven Asian countries, including the Philippines, joined Filipino pastors and eight American evangelists Nov. 25 through Dec. 8 to lead 3,110-people in 68 locations to make commitments to a personal faith in Jesus Christ.

Reports of civil unrest in the country hampered the recruiting of U.S.

evangelists for the church-planting effort. Still, 25 new churches will be organized from the campaign by early February and 20 more by mid-1986, said Slack, from Plain Dealing, La. Slack was missionary in residence for the Mississippi Stewardship and Cooperative Program Promotion Department last year.

Historically, most Filipinos have called themselves Catholic, and those in the more rural areas practice tribal spiritism along with a form of Catholicism. But in recent years the Philippines has come to be considered one of the world's more open countries to the gospel.

"Our work is growing fast," said Southern Baptist missionary Mark Terry from Siloam Springs, Ark. "We're planting a lot of new churches. And we're getting a lot of requests for people to come out and start new churches." Terry is a seminary teacher in Davao City.

Sixteen years ago the New People's Army (NPA) rebels were just a small gang of communist intellectuals roving the countryside. But now, the question of what to do with the NPA has become a campaign issue leading up to the much-ballyhooed Feb. 7 presidential elections.

The Philippine government admits the rebels are a force to be reckoned with. Aside from rescheduling some engagements to avoid some travel at night and in danger spots, however, missionaries say they are not bothered by the unrest. "We are aware that NPA activities abound, but our work goes on just the same," said missionary Grover Tyner Jr. from Augusta, Ga.

The NPA has not taken on a common voice opposing the gospel. But Southern Baptist missionaries report some incidents where Baptist church members aligned with government defense forces have been killed or where individual NPA troops have demanded preaching be stopped for various reasons.

Les Hill, chairman of the organization of Southern Baptist missionaries in the Philippines, told of one church caught in a no-win situation. The NPA asked members for the use of their building to teach communism, reported the Kansas City, Kan., native. "When the people refused, the NPA

leaders said the church would not be permitted to worship in their building," the Hills wrote in a newsletter to the States. "Then after that a town official told some of the members that he knew they were permitting the NPA to teach in their building and therefore the church would not be permitted to worship anymore."

The unrest has been common, yet quiet, talk where missionary Stan Smith lives in Mati. A prominent neighbor living nearby received five notes from communists threatening him and demanding money. People continue to flee the town for fear of the rebels, he said.

Stan Smith told about a deacon in Cabugayan who felt he needed to start a church seven miles from the road—a three-hour hike. Later he moved to another area to start a church there. And about a tribal pastor who came by to share how rats had again destroyed his congregation's mountain crops. The people scattered to get food elsewhere, and in the process started another church about 1.5 miles down the side of a mountain.

Despite the obstacles, Filipino Baptists intend to keep the work of God first. Southern Baptist missionary Harold Spencer, from Jacksonville, Ill., was particularly impressed with the prayer of one pastor. "He prayed for peace and order to be restored, that Christians may be a living testimony to their neighbors, for President Marcos as the leader of the whole nation, for the armed forces, especially that the testimony of Christians in the armed forces may be real and effective, and that the ministry and witness of churches may be what is needed," Spencer said.

"The emphasis of his prayer was not on protection, but on being a living witness."

Missionaries agree the living witness is shining through clearly. In fact, even the NPA is coming under its influence to some extent. "Regularly, rebels attend our services in areas they control," said Smith. "It seems they need to hear it as much as anyone. I never ask for a show of hands of whose side who is on."

Marty Croll writes for the Foreign Mission Board.

# Editorials . . . . . by don mcgregor

## Race relations Sunday

Race Relations Sunday is Feb. 9 and will be observed in Southern Baptist churches all across the nation. This observance will attempt to make us realize that we are all brothers inasmuch as God is not a respecter of persons. With him all men are equal.

That surely must mean that we should feel free to worship with people of all races; and, unquestionably, we have taken long strides in this direction. We are not all the way there by any means. I know of a church that lost members not long ago because the high school football team was invited to the services.

We should be willing to invite everyone to our services. And surely, deep within us, we are willing.

Yet next month we will have a Church Growth Conference in our state. It will be led by Win Arn, who is recognized as probably the foremost authority on church growth in the nation. Unless he has changed his approach drastically, he will seek to establish that the fastest church growth comes when homogeneous people get together. That simply means people, or whatever else, of like nature. Can people of different races be homogeneous? It wouldn't seem so.

This is surely not an effort to put a stumbling block in the path of either concept. If we are going to have a Race Relations Sunday, however, we are going to have to try to take stock of ourselves.

And it must be noted that the concept of good race relations doesn't at all mean that it is always the white race that is guilty of less than adequate relations between races, whatever they may be, or that it is totally encumbent on the white race

to make all the moves of conciliation.

And it is also a fact that the establishment of good race relations doesn't rest only on the shoulders of Mississippi Baptists. This is a worldwide situation and affects all races. It is not just a black-white condition.

It must be noted that the fact that Win Arn has pointed out that church growth comes more speedily with homogeneous groupings should not be taken to mean that he is opposed to attempts to have racial harmony. Unquestionably the reverse would be true. That churches grow more quickly with homogeneous groupings is simply a fact that has been recognized. We are more comfortable with our own kind—racially and economically.

But should this be the case in our Christian experience?

## Lottery takes a step

The first step, and maybe the second, has been made toward legalizing a state-run lottery for Mississippi. The Senate Constitution Committee has voted 4 to 3, with one abstention, to send the bill (or resolution—SCR 520) on to the floor of the Senate. A tie would have killed the bill. The abstainer let it go through.

Who can understand the vagaries of politics?

By the time these lines are read the bill could have been before the Senate. If such be the case, let us hope that body had the wisdom to kill the bill.

In any case, only a step, or steps, has been made: for it will take a constitutional amendment to bring a lottery to Mississippi. And that will take a vote by the people. With wild claims of millions of dollars in tax money to be made from a lottery, however, who knows but that the people might believe the claims.

Sen. Howard Dyer, who introduced the bill calling for a lottery, wittingly or unwittingly spilled the beans as he talked about its prospects. Money

I don't have the answer to the dichotomy that comes from seeking to improve race relations and realizing that church growth is enhanced when it is built around homogeneous people.

Maybe there is no need to answer such a puzzler.

If an answer is needed, however, we had best be seeking to find out what it is.

In the meantime it is incumbent upon us, by scriptural admonition, to make ourselves open to those of other races. The Master has left us no other choice. The scripture that is being used for this year's observation is John 15:12—"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you."

from the establishment of a lottery would be supposed to go for education. Dyer pointed out, however, that the use of money for education from a lottery would free other tax income for education to be used in other ways. In other words, income for education would not be increased with the use of lottery money.

And income for education would be pegged on the uncertainties of the sale of lottery tickets.

It has been explained in these columns already that the people who profit from a lottery are those who run it. It saps income from the people to pay the firms which manufacture the lottery equipment and run the machinery of it. Those same people who are paying for the operation of a lottery could come out cheaper by paying taxes in the same amount as the lottery would produce for the state.

The Senate Constitution Committee, however, has cleared the first hurdle for the lottery. Voting for the bill were Sens. Dyer, Doug Anderson of Jackson, Buddy Gresham of Green-

# "Love one another."

(John 15:12)



## Observe Race Relations Sunday

February 9, 1986

Sponsored by the Christian Life Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

ville (Dyer's city), and Eddie Biggs of DeKalb. Voting against the resolution were Sens. Martin Smith of Poplarville, Hob Bryan of Amory, and Charles Nix of Batesville.

The abstainer was George Guerieri of Southaven.

Now is the time to contact your state senator as quickly as possible. In case

the bill has already been dealt with in the Senate and has passed, contact your representative immediately.

A lottery is an insidious thing that preys on those who can least afford it. This is not an attractive way to finance public education, particularly when it is to furnish no more money for education.

### The Baptist Record

(ISSN-0005-5778)

515 Mississippi Street  
P.O. Box 530  
Jackson, Miss. 39205

Don McGregor Editor  
Tim Nicholas Associate Editor  
Anne McWilliams Assistant

Editor  
Evelyn Keyes Advertising  
Coordinator

Florence Larrimore Editorial  
Assistant

Renee Walley Circulation  
Assistant

Betty Anne Bailey Financial  
Records

Irene Martin Computer  
Operator

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Martha Chambliss, Oxford; Ferrell O. Cork, Jr., Aberdeen; Marcus Finch, Meridian, chairman; Bruce Hill, Lexington; Gary Holland, Pascagoula; Owen Lusk, Magee, vice-chairman. Ex officio: Evelyn Keyes, Jackson, secretary.

Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance.

Published weekly except week of July 4 and Christmas.

Second Class Postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi.

The Baptist Record is a member of the Southern Baptist Press Association.

Volume 110 Number 1

## Guest opinion . . .

## Future growth for Southern Baptists

By Jim Coldiron

Will Southern Baptists have some good growth periods from 1985-2000? We have had good growth periods in the past. Southern Baptists were growing greatly during the fifties and early sixties. We were doing those things that produce growth.

Can we grow during the time in which we live? I believe we can and must. The lostness of our communities, cities, states, and nation challenge us to growth. We must accept the responsibility to lead these lost people to Christ.

Let me share some basic things we can do to produce growth:

1. We can evangelize! We have the best tools in history. We need to equip every pastor, staff person, Sunday School worker, and member with witnessing skills. Witnessing needs to

become the lifestyle of every believer.

2. We can begin new congregations! We can and must sow our nation down with New Testament congregations. Every unreached area needs a congregation where people can be led to Christ and have vital fellowship.

3. We can make the Sunday School the major outreach arm of the church. The "8.5 by 85" enrollment goal is a major step. We must move on to enroll 10 million in Bible study by 1990. We had a record year in baptisms in 1955 because thousands were enrolled in Bible study in 1954. The National Simultaneous Revivals in 1986 can help us reach those enrolled in Sunday School. The same can happen in the 1990 Simultaneous Revivals.

4. We can keep our programs simple and easy to communicate. This

will help us enlist and involve every member possible.

5. We can train and equip the people to use their God given gifts. This will involve teacher training, potential leadership training, witness training, and training to develop skills for the people to minister.

If we are to grow, we must be motivated to do these and more. I know the Holy Spirit motivates people. He uses people through whom He works to motivate people.

The Holy Spirit can motivate to think and plan big. Big thinking attracts big thinkers. We need to think about people: lost people, sick people, needy people, poor people, black people, red people, brown people, yellow people, white people—all people. Jesus was concerned for people. We

should follow Him!

This demands our best for Christ and people. John R. Mott said, "To ask money of a man for the purposes of the world-wide kingdom of God is not to ask him a favor; it is to give him a superb opportunity of investing his own personality in eternal share. In a word, it helps that man to realize in his own life the practice of the strategy of priorities."

To have continued, significant growth will take the time, talents, tithe, treasure, and total commitment of our present Christians and those who become Christians in the future.

Jim Coldiron is regional coordinator of the Home Mission Board.

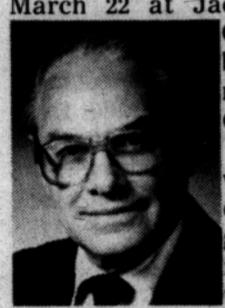
# The Baptist Record

## 'Giving Men' will be theme of men's meet in March

"Giving Men" is the theme for the day's activities which will take place March 22 at Jackson's Parkway Church, under the banner of the annual Baptist Men's Conference.

That conference, which includes eight ministry group conferences, in addition to the traditional ban-

Kelly quet and general session, will include as featured speaker, Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Byron Cutrer, minister of music, First Church, Greenville, will be the



Cutrer Nicholson

featured vocalist and music leader.

Banquet speaker will be Eddy Nicholson, making a return visit to the banquet. Nicholson, who spouts homespun wisdom, spoke five years ago at the banquet.

The ministry group conferences begin at 10 a.m., the banquet at 11:30

a.m., and the general session, at 1 p.m.

Organizations holding ministry group meetings that morning include Agricultural Missions Fellowship, Church Renewal Fellowship, Educational Missions Fellowship, Mission Service Corps, Retirees on Mission; Volunteers on Mission, and Women Ministering. Also, there will be a session offering an overview of Brotherhood work.

Sponsor of the meeting is the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Brotherhood Department. Tickets for the banquet are \$6 per person. There is no charge for attending the general session. For tickets write the Brotherhood Department, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205.

### Meridian native

## Seminary student dies, killed at home by gunman

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — A Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary student was killed in an apparently random shooting at his home Jan. 29.

Police do not yet have a motive in the shooting death of Douglas Clifton (Cliff) Seale, a master of music student from Meridian, Miss.

Seale was pronounced dead on arrival at John Peter Smith hospital after being shot twice at his home.

Lawrence Klempnauer, vice-president for student affairs, said an unknown person fired five shots through the living room window of the Seales' home about 11:45 Wednesday night. The home is a private residence, but is located across the street from a seminary-owned apartment complex.

"It looks like somebody walked up to the screen and fired five shots through it," Klempnauer said. "Somebody just got up there and unloaded a pistol."

Seale's wife, Teresa, was in the bathroom when the shooting occurred, Klempnauer said. Seale apparently was seated on a couch in the front room. Two of the five shots fired through the draped window hit Seale, Klempnauer said.

Several neighbors reported hearing shots but saw nothing when they looked outside.



Seale

Seale began seminary studies in the spring of 1984 and ranked in the top quarter of seminary students, according to Registrar Dan McLallen. He was a graduate of Meridian Junior College, and Bellhaven College.

The death brought a hush over the seminary's annual Church Music Workshop, which was underway last week. More than 800 students, faculty and visitors to the workshop stood for a moment of silent prayer for Seale's family after James McKinney, dean of the school of music, announced the tragedy.

"We had planned an opening theme of 'joy' and will continue with it," McKinney said. "In times of trouble it is even more important than ever to find comfort in the joy of our salvation and in our God."

In his prayer, McKinney admitted, "God, we can't understand it . . . but in time we know you will be victorious . . . we ask that you give Cliff's family comfort and us some understanding."

The day of his death, Seale had begun duties as a youth choir director at Sagamore Hill Baptist Church. Michael Catt, associate pastor and student minister at the church, said Seale had performed two songs at the regular youth service that night — "Be Still and Know that I Am God" and "Open My Eyes Lord, I Want To See Jesus."

Seale has held several positions in Mississippi churches as minister of music and youth. He served Toombsuba Church; Pelahatchie Church;

and Friendship Church, Aberdeen.

"Cliff was one of the most genuine people I ever met," Catt said. "He was full of joy. I spent the day with him yesterday and he was talking about his plans for the choir. I had never seen anyone so excited."

Funeral arrangements were pending.

## January mission gifts are most ever for one month

In January, Mississippi Baptist churches channeled the most ever for one month in mission gifts through the Cooperative Program, according to Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. The Board receives the gifts from churches and distributes them according to the budget adopted at each year's Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The total for January was \$1,944,314, which was \$39,439 more than the second highest month, January of 1985. That month, the total in gifts was \$1,904,875.

The 1986 budget is \$18,550,000. On a pro rata basis, the monthly need would average \$1,545,833, starting the new financial year out \$398,481 ahead of budget.

## Springfield sends Smiths to assist Central Hills

Joe and Irene Smith of Springfield Church, near Morton, recently were commissioned by the Mission Service Corps of the Home Mission Board, to serve as mission volunteers at Central Hills Baptist Retreat, Kosciusko.

They have been assisting Dan West, director of the Royal Ambassador camp for young boys, since Jan. 16 and will live on the campgrounds for

a period of at least one year. Joe is doing maintenance and Irene is doing secretarial work.

A commissioning service was held at Springfield for the couple on Jan. 19. He was chairman of deacons and she, volunteer church secretary and Sunday School secretary during 1985, and up to the time of their departure.

Alan E. Balliet is their pastor.



Joe and Irene Smith

### Togolese receive waters of life

MORETAN, Togo — North Carolina volunteers working with the Baptist development project near Moretan, Togo, drilled one of their best wells. That night about 2,500 people came to a nearby village to see a movie about Jesus says Southern Baptist missionary Marsha Key, whose husband, Mike, was directing a four-week evangelistic emphasis. "What more complete expression of God's love could the people have in one day than to receive physical water in the name of Christ and to hear . . . about 'The Living Water,'" she said.

Almost 400 people made professions of faith in Christ during the campaign.

## Nigerian visa restrictions to limit missionaries, work

By Anita Bowden

LAGOS, Nigeria (BP) — The government of Nigeria has imposed visa quotas which will require some Southern Baptist missionaries to leave the country and limit the type of work new missionaries may do.

The quota, expected for months as part of the government's attempt to nationalize jobs, became effective Jan. 22. But no missionaries will have to leave the country for 18 months, according to John Mills, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board director for west Africa.

Twelve missionaries working with the Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary in Ogbomosho will be most immediately affected because their visas will expire in 18 months. In two years visas will expire for about 20 more. Included in this group are nurses, field evangelists and those working with the pastors' schools in

Kaduna and Owerri and with Theological Education by Extension.

None of these visas may be renewed and no new visas will be approved for missionaries in these jobs unless further policy changes occur, Mills said.

Two-year renewable visas will be available for missionary doctors, administrators, student workers, and those involved in non-theological education. There are 117 Southern Baptist missionaries assigned to Nigeria, where missions work began in 1850.

News of the quota came in a phone call from Fred Levrets, executive secretary of the mission. He plans to talk with immigration officials about the implications and send more detailed information in written form to the board, Mills said. Other mission organizations also are facing visa

restrictions, according to Levrets. Though the quota as currently interpreted could seriously damage missions work in the country, Mills is optimistic that some adjustments could be made to ease the situation. He also noted that policy changes have been frequent in Nigeria.

Anita Bowden writes for the Foreign Mission Board.

## Midland, First tops \$1 million

MIDLAND, Texas (BP) — First Church, Midland, gave \$1,002,035 for missions through the Cooperative Program in 1985 to lead Texas Baptists.



Jerry Rankin, center, the Foreign Mission Board's associate to the area director for Southeast Asia, and Maxine Stewart, missionary to Thailand and press representative for the Foreign Mission Board, visit with Acharn Pracha, president of the Baptist seminary in Bangkok. Rankin, a Mississippian, lives in Bangkok.

## High Court takes new case testing religious job bias

WASHINGTON (BP)—For the second time in two years, the Supreme Court will decide if a worker is entitled under the Constitution and federal law to time off for religious observances.

The new case involves the claim of a public schoolteacher in Ansonia, Conn. that the local school board should provide him with paid leave to observe up to six religious holidays annually. The teacher is a member of the Sabbath-observing Worldwide Church of God, a denomination founded by the late Herbert W. Armstrong.

Only last year the court ruled invalid a Connecticut law requiring employers in the private sector to accommodate the religious needs of workers by giving them the day off of their choice each week for religious worship. The justices held, 8-1, that

the statute had the effect of establishing religion in violation of the First Amendment.

The new dispute centers on the claim of Ronald Philbrook, who joined the Worldwide Church of God in 1968, that his religion conditions receiving eternal life on the observance of "designated holy days."

But policy established by the Ansonia Board of Education in negotiation with the local chapter of the American Federation of Teachers entitles teachers to take only three paid days annually for religious observances. In addition, the policy allows an additional 18 days' sick leave, including three days for "necessary personal business," a category that nevertheless specifically excludes religious observances.



## Conference will teach adults to lead in DiscipleLife

A conference for leaders of youths will take place Feb. 17-18 in Jackson to teach disciplines for effective Christian living. The conference will teach the adults how to lead in DiscipleLife, which, according to published materials, gives young people the tools to lead others to Christ, tools for doctrinal study and for ministry, and tools necessary to grow as Christians.

The meeting will be at the Baptist Building, 515 Mississippi Street in Jackson and is a two day intensive, experiential survey. Participants must

choose either DiscipleYouth I (\$30) or DiscipleYouth II (\$40).

The conference begins at 6 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 17 and concludes at 4 p.m. the next day. Send registration fees to either of the sponsoring departments: Evangelism or Church Training, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205.

Linda Smith of First Church, Canton, calls DiscipleYouth "a practical, effective tool that informs and encourages youth to be active in the discipline of following Jesus."

Says Jerry Rankin

# "Indigenous church growth is going on in India"

By Anne W. McWilliams

Pakistan has a new mission couple—its first Southern Baptist missionaries ever—Hubert and Bettie Adiletton from Georgia. They are assigned to evangelism in Kirachi.

Jerry Rankin, Mississippian, the Foreign Mission Board's associate director for Southeast Asia, is helping them to get started, and will visit Kirachi in March.

Sri Lanka shares the first itinerant missionary couple, Bob and Margie Wakefield from Missouri, with Singapore and India. When they are not in Sri Lanka, then Jerry Rankin's duties there will become heavier. "We only have two couples in Sri Lanka," he said.

Other countries where he coordinates the Southern Baptist mission work are Bangladesh, Nepal, India, and West Thailand. Sometimes he also deals with Guam and Indonesia.

From 50 to 60 percent of his time, he noted, is spent in India. Back when he was a student summer missionary working with Jasper McPhail in India, he recalls, the needs of India touched him. "Also Bobbey felt the same way," he said. "But instead we were assigned to Indonesia, where we stayed for 14 years."

In 1978, he heard a speaker say, "We need church planters in India. Who could go for a short time?" April-June of 1969 was a perfect fit for their furlough time, so they went to India for three months. The response was so great that they were asked to come again.

Then he was named consultant for evangelism and church growth in India, as a part of his work, while he was still in Indonesia. Soon he was invited to take a survey in Bangladesh, to learn more about church growth needs there. And "There's been a turnover in Sri Lanka. Could you take a survey here also?" As such events continued to evolve, he was asked to become associate director for Southeast Asia. Because of the call he had felt to India years before, he responded, "Yes."

"Though the hospital in Bangalore is the most generally known, it is not the only mission work that Southern Baptists are doing in India," he explained. There is cooperation with national pastors and churches.

Jack and Ava Shelby are missionaries who live in Bangkok, but he directs work with nationals in India and with partnership volunteers who go to India for short terms to assist in church planting. So far, he has had 600 volunteers on his list.

Rankin recalls that Owen Cooper pointed out, "There are 730 million winnable people in India. Why not try to reach them?" An effort is being made.

"Indigenous church growth is going on in India," Rankin said. "Encouragers help disciple ones who make professions of faith. Then they let the Holy Spirit take over." In Bangalore Baptists saw their witness multiplied in an astonishing way, be-

tween 1981 and 1984.

The goal, "every church start a church every year," has brought the number of churches in Bangalore to 13, and in that area from 21 to 200.

"If this same pattern can be used in other states of India, this is exciting," they reasoned.

And now it is going on in nine states of India—in Bombay, Calcutta, and other places. Research revealed 28 Baptist associations in the country and 6,927 Baptist churches, but many of the churches had lost their evangelistic fervor, Rankin said.

But church planters helped and the pattern is being repeated in nine states. "Indigenous church growth is going on. Encouragers help disciple new converts. And then they let the Holy Spirit take over..."

"My work is administrative. Too, I'm an on-the-field 'pastor' to the missionaries," he said.

"My goal," he added, "is to maximize the effectiveness of missionaries in Southeast Asia. Sometimes those who are too close to a problem or to a task lose their objectivity. I help with mission and individual planning; with relationships between missionaries and other missionaries, and between missionaries and nationals; and in family crisis."

Opportunities to speak in conferences, conventions, and churches give him many contacts with nationals.

Because of the number of countries his work involves, Rankin is at his home in Bangkok, Thailand, less than half of each year. One year he was away from home 28 weeks, and another year 30 weeks. Between September and December, 1985, he was home only three weeks.

After he accepted the position as associate director for Southeast Asia, he moved to Bangkok to be in a more central location. His office is at Calvary Baptist Church, Bangkok. His wife is the secretary who answers the correspondence during his long absences.

"The smaller the mission," he said, "the more need they have for my help. Thailand has 81 missionaries, so I am involved very little in their program. Bangladesh has 18 missionaries (eight of them Mississippians). The mission there is well organized, and there is good input." Rankin was in Dhaka for mission meeting Dec. 4-6, 1985.

For the other countries in his territory—Nepal, India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka—he is totally responsible for directing the work.

In Nepal, Wayne and Pat Thorpe are Southern Baptists' only missionaries. They are assigned to the United Mission of Nepal, he as a doctor and she as a social worker, at Tansen.

## Bringing Missions Home to You... Home Missions Teleconference

February 8, 1986  
12:00-1:30 P.M. CST

### Teleconference Highlights:

- Interview with Dorothy Sample, William Tanner, James Smith
- Interviews with home missionaries
- Theme interpretation which can be taped and used during the week of prayer
- Spotlight on a church which promotes strongly the Week of Prayer for Home Missions and the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- Questions called in from teleconference viewers answered by missions leaders

Broadcast over Baptist Telecommunication Network, Spacenet 1, channel 21-transponder 11; and ACTS, Spacenet 1, channel 15-transponder 8. The signal will not be scrambled for this event.



# State court suit filed against SBC

By Dan Martin

ATLANTA (BP) — A lawsuit has been filed in Superior Court of Fulton County, Ga., against the Southern Baptist Convention and its Executive Committee by five Southern Baptist laypersons from five states.

The suit, filed Jan. 23 by the Atlanta lawfirm of Bondurant, Mixson and Elmore on behalf of plaintiffs from Georgia, Louisiana, North Carolina, Kentucky, and Texas, is identical to one filed Dec. 5 in Federal District Court for the Northern District of Georgia by Robert S. and Julia Crowder of Birmingham, Ala., and Henry C. Cooper of Windsor, Mo.

Attorney Jane Vehko told Baptist Press the new suit "is a parallel action in state court. Both suits seek exactly the same relief."

Bondurant, Mixson and Elmore represent the Crowders and Cooper in the federal suit as well as the plaintiffs in the new suit in Fulton County Superior Court.

Both suits center on the election of the SBC Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees at the 1985 annual meeting of the SBC in Dallas. Both seek to have that election declared invalid, to have the courts interpret convention bylaws and to "enjoin the defendants from further violations" of the bylaws.

Plaintiffs in the new suit are Katherine F. White, of Atlanta, a member of Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church; Lucy Azlin, of Alexandria, La., a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church; Betty Ann L. Upshaw of Winston-Salem, N.C., a member of Knollwood Baptist Church; Terry Black of Louisville, Ky., a member of Buechel Park Baptist Church, and Jim B. Black of Lewisville, Texas, a member of First Baptist Church.

All five were messengers to the 1985 annual meeting of the SBC.

Both suits spring from actions at the SBC June 12, during which the Committee on Committees nominated the 52-member Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees.

An effort was made by James H. Slatton, pastor of River Road Baptist Church of Richmond, Va., to introduce a substitute slate of nominees. SBC President Charles F. Stanley of Atlanta, ruled the report could not be amended by an alternate slate, but only one-by-one.

Messengers rejected Stanley's interpretation, but before action could be taken, the meeting adjourned. However, during the evening session, Stanley, on the advice of parliamentarian Wayne Allen of Memphis, Tenn., ruled the report could not be amended at all. He then called for a vote and messengers by ballot vote elected the slate of nominees presented by the Committee on Committees.

The Georgia lawsuit maintains Stanley's "erroneous" rulings "violated the integrity of the bylaws . . . were in excess of his authority as the presiding officer at the Dallas convention and deprived the plaintiffs and other messengers . . . of the protection of

fair and unbiased procedures which is guaranteed by the bylaws of the Southern Baptist Convention."

It also claims the report of the Committee on Committees "was not lawfully adopted" and therefore members of the 1986 Committee on Boards "are without authority to serve."

The suit also maintains the "plaintiffs have exhausted all available remedies" within the SBC, and that "no other entity or tribunal within the Southern Baptist Convention . . . has the authority under the convention's constitution and bylaws to resolve the procedural issues raised by plaintiffs and to provide redress for or correct of the . . . violations of the convention's bylaws."

Dan Martin is Baptist Press News editor.

## Layman joins suit against SBC

VERO BEACH, Fla. (BP) — A Vero Beach man has joined three other Southern Baptists in a federal lawsuit against the Southern Baptist Convention and its Executive Committee.

H. Allan McCartney, a retired Marine and deacon in First Baptist Church, Vero Beach, has filed a motion in the U.S. District Court in Atlanta to add his name as a plaintiff in a suit filed Dec. 5 by layperson Robert S. and Julia Crowder of Birmingham, Ala., and Henry C. Cooper, of Windsor, Mo.

McCartney said he contacted Crowder and offered to become a plaintiff.

## Asks suit be dropped

MILTON, Fla. (BP) — Twenty-two churches of the Santa Rosa Baptist Association in Florida's panhandle have asked the plaintiffs in the federal lawsuit pending against the Southern Baptist Convention to withdraw their suit from "worldly" courts of law.

By a unanimous vote Jan. 6, the association, which has 32 churches and missions, approved a letter be sent to Robert and Julia Crowder of Birmingham, Ala., who, with Henry C. Cooper of Windsor, Mo., have filed suit to reverse last June's election of the SBC Committee on Boards, Commissions and Standing Committees.

Crowder told the Florida Baptist Witness the action is the only opposition from a Baptist Association of which he has received notification.



## Haiti looters steal food from Baptist storehouse

By Erich Bridges

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (BP) — Looters took a truckload of food from a Baptist farm storehouse near Cap Haitien Jan. 30 as national violence and unrest escalated in Haiti.

The report came from Southern Baptist missionaries Jack and Doris Hancox, who said Jan. 31 they were staying inside Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital, for the time being.

The stolen food had been intended for school children involved in Baptists' extensive school nutrition program in Haiti, but schools have been closed since unrest began in late November. Looters also raided three CARE food warehouses in the country.

The Hancoxes said the U.S. government had urged American tourists to leave Haiti and recommended that other Americans stay in Port-au-Prince. Hancox said he told several Southern Baptist volunteer groups in the United States not to come, and he was working Jan. 31 to get 21 American Baptist volunteers out of the country. The American Baptists group, which was in Port-au-Prince, had come to work with missionaries from their denomination stationed in Cap Haitien, site of some of the worst violence. Hancox said he hoped to help them fly back to the United States Feb. 1.

Southern Baptist lay worker Freddie Peters of Oklahoma City and her two daughters are safe in Port-au-Prince, Hancox said. Mrs. Peters' husband, Dan, of Castle Rock, Colo., is in Miami receiving medical treatment.

Longtime Southern Baptist volunteers John and Edna Payne of Kentucky have been in the United States since coming home for Christmas. "We have advised them not to come back until this is over," Mrs. Hancox said.

Cap Haitien and all other major towns besides Port-au-Prince are "shut tight," according to Hancox. He said martial law and a state of siege had been announced on national radio the morning of Jan. 31. Port-au-Prince itself was relatively calm, he reported, but he said traffic into the city had been stopped and major roads might be closed.

The Hancoxes said they instructed Baptist workers at the food storage locations not to resist looters if they strike again. "Most of the food that has been brought in has already gone

## More moms join U.S. labor force

Almost half of all mothers of children under age three are in the labor force, new statistics from the U.S. Labor Department show. The figures reflect a dramatic increase during the last decade.

Totals for white women with children under age three: 49.2 percent in 1985, compared to 32.4 percent in 1975.

For blacks: 52.2 percent in 1985, 44.0 percent in 1975.



out to our different schools," Mrs. Hancox said. "There is a little bit left in our warehouses . . . (Jack) told the guardians just to open the door rather than be hurt. (The looters) come in with guns. You don't want your people hurt over a sack of rice."

Erich Bridges writes for the Foreign Mission Board.



## BIRTHRIGHT

### PREGNANCY COUNSELING AGENCY

A free service to women and their pre-born children offering an alternative to abortion. Orientation Workshop Feb. 22 for part-time volunteers — P. O. Box 10694, Jackson, MS 39209. Call 373-5391 or 372-4890.

## CHURCH FINANCING AVAILABLE

### You Can Build Now

Let us issue

### CHURCH BONDS

for your church

Plans from  
A Do-It-Yourself Program  
To Buying All Your Bonds

### Church Finance, Inc.

666 North St., P. O. Box 2087  
JACKSON, MISS. 39205  
W. B. Rives (601) 948-1920

SERVING MISSISSIPPI CHURCHES FOR 25 YEARS

## Real Evangelism

FEBRUARY 26-28, 1986

ROSWELL STREET  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
MARIETTA, GEORGIA



### FEATURING GREAT GOSPEL SPEAKERS

Including . . .

BAILEY SMITH  
JOHN MCKAY  
ADRIAN ROGERS  
BILL STAFFORD  
JERRY FALWELL  
MANLEY BEASLEY  
JAY STRACK  
CHARLES STANLEY

### BIBLE CONFERENCE

FOR FREE BROCHURE AND FURTHER INFORMATION CALL (817) 268-3212 OR WRITE:  
REAL EVANGELISM P.O. BOX 18893 FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76118

## HEADQUARTERS

### FOR ALL TYPES OF

**School & Church Furniture**  
• Complete stock of chairs, tables, desks and  
furnishings for Classroom, Library, Sunday  
School, Auditorium, Cafeteria and every  
School and Church use.

EVERYTHING FOR  
THE SCHOOL  
AND CHURCH

MISSISSIPPI  
School Supply Co.  
A. K. & N. MISSISSIPPI

## Yes, Satan is real

By Michael O'Brien

Read: Acts 5:1-10

"What made you think of doing such a thing?"

People have some favorite questions they like to ask preachers. I guess one of the most favorite is: "Do you REALLY believe in the devil?" And the answer is pretty standard, too, "It is in the Bible." And so it is, but both the question and the answer are worthy of a little more attention than that.

Hal Lindsey has a book out called *Satan Is Alive and Well On Planet Earth*. However, I believe it goes beyond that. Satan is alive and well and lives in the hearts of millions of people. Take the case of Ananias and Sapphira, why would this couple "lie to the Holy Spirit, or God?" These were members of the church; they "knew the Lord." Why? Greed? Well, maybe, but, lots of people are greedy. They did what they did because they listened to the prince of this world, the devil.

O'Brien  
In sharing my faith with a lost man, we were interrupted by the telephone. While he was detained by the phone conversation, his wife asked me not to talk to him concerning these matters. I respected her wishes and left shortly after he returned to the room. Two weeks later he was killed in a car wreck. To the best of my knowledge, he never became a Christian. He never asked the Lord Jesus Christ to come into his life. His wife chose to listen to Satan rather than to God.

Beloved, we can never blame the devil for the wrong we do. He only tempts us, lies to us, and tries to deceive us. Yes, Satan is real, but, so is God.

"Father, help us to 'listen as you speak' and resist the temptations of this world. Amen."

Michael O'Brien is pastor, First Church, Lexington.



## Churches increase in Kenya

Participants in an intensive church planting seminar relax with missionary leader Clay Coursey during a break. Baptists in the Giryama area of Kenya have increased from 225 to more

than 4,000 in 10 years' time. They began 30 churches in 1984. (FMB) PHOTO BY Elaine Lidholm

## Letters to the Editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved until all circumstances and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the *Baptist Record*.

### Segregation unsupported

Editor:

I am writing in response to the letter, "Return to Church," that was in the *Baptist Record* on January 16.

First of all, I do not believe you can find support for racial segregation in the Bible. You will find in the Bible God telling us to separate ourselves from our sinful ways (Romans 12:1-2). God told the people of Israel to separate themselves from those who worshipped idols, but even this was not based on race but religion. In the letter was a verse from Acts 11 that was used to justify segregation. If you read four verses further down to Acts 11:30, you will find "and the times of this ignorance God winked at, but not commandeth all men everywhere to repent." God has commanded all men to repent. His churches must be open to everyone so all men may hear the message.

Secondly, if we continue to practice segregation, what are we to do with the life and teachings of Jesus Christ? Jesus brought eternal life to a Samaritan woman; he healed a Roman's servant and then praised his faith. He never allowed anyone to be put down because of what they did or what they looked like. He healed lepers; he was a friend to publicans and sinners; he comforted the oppressed. He even allowed harlots to become close to him. The story of the Good Samaritan was a racial story. The Samaritan and the Jew were neighbors in God's eyes. He said to

love your enemies. While Roman soldiers crucified him, he forgave. His last command to his followers was to "teach all nations."

Thirdly, as if knowing what Christ would do is not enough, how can we practice segregation when we hear Peter say, "God hath showed me that I should not call any man common or unclean." (Acts 12:28) How do we handle Paul when he says in Galatians 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither male or female, there is neither bond nor free: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

Go back to church this Sunday. We all need to. But when we go, we need to ask God to break our hearts for those who need his Son, no matter what the color.

Mark Coon, Jackson

### Segregation condemned

Editor:

I can sympathize greatly with Wendell Gardner whose letter was recently published in the *Record*'s letter column. I often wonder if I should go to church. However, my feelings do not stem from any article I have read but from what is written in the Word of God.

I fully agree with the *Baptist World Alliance* and its call to condemn segregation in South Africa. I also see, as Gardner pointed out, its stand condemns 99 percent of Baptist churches.

My partnership with the alliance is not because I am a member, but because their stand is the biblical stand to take on this issue. Gardner, who states Acts 17:26 as justification of segregation, is badly out of context. Paul is not trying to justify segregation, but is practicing desegregation in this chapter. How? Paul, a Jew, is preaching to Gentiles (Greeks). Verses 26 and 27 are a foundation for Paul to relate to those men of Athens.

In these verses Paul tells them that God has made all nations of one blood (all of one family, therefore all races are brothers) and set the bounds of their habitation so that they, at that particular moment, might hear and respond to the gospel. That is the proper context of those verses.

In many of Paul's personal writings, he flatly condemns segregation. One of the strongest refutations of this horrendous and ungodly practice is found in Galatians 2:11-14.

I have decided as Wendell Gardner decided. I will go back to church. Except I will not pray that God keep us separate. No, I will pray that God will soften the hearts of his people and remove the cancer of prejudice with the scalpel of love. I may not see the day when all races worship under one roof in brotherly love, but I will continue to teach and preach to the church, in the office of pastor-teacher, that desegregation is God's divine will.

Keith Powell  
Pastor, Popular Springs  
Baptist Church  
Hazelhurst, Ms.

### Army association

Editor:

The 16th Armored Division Association is a non-profit organization of World War II Army veterans, who served with General Patton's Third Army in Europe. We have 1,100 members, who now reside in all 50 states except Montana and Alaska. Our Armored Division consisted of approximately 15,000 men during combat.

Since I was the first sergeant of Company "B," 64th Armored Infantry Battalion of the 16th Armored Division, I can recall that there were men in my outfit who originally lived in Mississippi and either enlisted or were drafted from your state.

I am trying to locate these men and ask them to join our association. It would be greatly appreciated if you would print this letter, requesting that these former members of The 16th Armored Division contact me.

We hold an annual reunion in a different city and state in the United States. In 1985 our 34th Annual Reunion was held in Cleveland, Ohio. In 1986 we plan to be at Lake Tahoe and in 1987 in Orlando, Florida.

Steve J. Chylinski  
First Vice-president  
16th Armored Division  
Association  
7926 Twin Oaks Drive  
Broadview Hts. Ohio 44147-1021  
Phone, 216-237-3057

This is not the sort of letter that we normally run in these columns in the *Baptist Record*. In fact, very few letters from outside of Mississippi ever get in. But having been in Company D of the 409th Infantry of the 103rd Division in the Seventh Army that fought alongside the Third Army in France, I felt it might be permissible.

— Editor

### Care for the elderly

Editor:

I want to thank you for your editorial of Thursday, January 16, 1986. You and Irene Martin have certainly challenged Mississippi Baptists.

Mississippi College is offering an enrichment course which will address some of your problems of caring for the elderly. The course, "Caring for the Elderly: Helping the Family to Help," will meet on Tuesday evenings beginning Feb. 11 and continuing through March 25. Instructor will be Dr. John W. Waid and cost of the course will be \$25. The course will address a wide range of topics including changing family roles; decision mak-

ing; normal changes with aging; common illnesses of the elderly; community resources; legal concerns; the importance of self-care; and coping and caregiving.

For registration information, contact the Office of Continuing Education at 925-3264.

Again, thank you for your challenging editorial.

Dorothy I. Carpenter  
Director of Continuing  
Education  
Mississippi College

### Hewitt's military service

Editor:

In reading the obituary notice on Purser Hewitt, I noticed that no mention was made of his military service. I recall that he was a Lt. Colonel, retired. After World War II he was active in the Reserve Officers Association and the U.S. Army Reserves. I am sure that he served his country during World War II. I thought this was too much of a highlight for a wonderful patriot to be omitted.

E. Griffin Alford  
Colonel USAR, Retired  
Jackson

### WMU news coverage

Editor:

When we were in Birmingham recently we were given a "Yearly News Usage Report."

I was so happy to see that Mississippi was one of the leaders among all the states in giving coverage to WMU news. I was not surprised—just pleased.

Thanks to you and your fine staff for the tremendous support which you give us in our work.

Marjean Patterson  
Executive director  
Mississippi WMU

# Faces And Places

by anne washburn mc williams

## Raul Garcia — Cuban refugee, American citizen, retires

Raul Garcia retired Jan. 31. He had worked with the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, in the maintenance department at the Baptist Building since 1968. Before that, he worked at Gulfshore Assembly for five years.

Garcia and his wife, Ester, and daughter, Carmen, refugees from Cuba, flew to Miami on Aug. 8, 1962. "I still remember how hot it was in Miami that day," he recalls. A year later, on April 19, 1963, they moved to Pass Christian, where he joined the Gulfshore staff.

But Hurricane Betsy again made refugees of the Garcias, and they fled the coastal area. Betsy flooded their apartment at the assembly and ruined most of their belongings. "Ester was ready to go back to Miami," he said.

Broadmoor Church, Jackson, came to their aid following the hurricane, though. Art Nelson, a Broadmoor member was business manager for the Convention Board, and helped Garcia to transfer to the Baptist Building, so that he and his wife could move to Jackson, April 25, 1968. They became American citizens in 1971.

Garcia is a deacon at Broadmoor. He and Ester were instrumental in starting the Spanish congregation which is a part of the Broadmoor Church. She is now the Sunday School director at the Spanish church. He is Sunday School secretary. Also he has served as lay preacher for the church, between pastors. This church began a Spanish mission at Morton, First Church, with Mexican chicken farm workers. Garcia and the present Broadmoor Spanish pastor, Bill Ferrell, go to Morton the second and last Fridays of each month to assist in that work. The Morton Spanish members visit the Jackson church on first Sundays.

Mrs. Garcia, the former Ester Rasco, is employed in the department of Pathology at University Medical Center. She is a histologic technician, certified by the Registry of Medical Technologists of the American Society of Clinical Pathologists.

After their daughter, Carmen, was graduated from high school at Pass Christian and studied at William Carey College three years, she was married Sept. 9, 1966, to Eddie Gandy of West Point. Their wedding took place at White Cap, the commandant's house at Gulfshore which was destroyed by Hurricane Camille in 1969. The Gandy's live now in Baton Rouge, where he is pastor of the Stevendale Baptist Church. They have a daughter, April Ann, 15, and a son, Eddie Christopher, 11.

Raul Garcia was born in Mayajigua, Cuba, one of a large family. It was while he was working in a rice factory at Caibarien that he met Ester, whose father, Luis Rasco, was an administrator in a sugar cane factory. One day at work the young Raul

looked out the window of the rice factory and saw a beautiful young woman looking out the window of the house nearby. He went over and knocked on the door and asked to speak to the young woman; he was refused admittance.

However, Ester heard about the incident, and it stirred her interest in the good-looking young man with black hair and blue eyes. They kept smiling at each other through the windows. Also he was persistent. Finally he gained permission to date her. Their dates were to be from 7 to 9 p.m., her mother said, only one evening per week. And the mother was to remain in the room as a chaperone. That was the Cuban custom. When 9 p.m. came, the mother would always rap on her chair, signaling that it was time for Raul to go home. They were married March 26, 1946. Their daughter, Carmen, born in 1947, was named for her maternal grandmother.

Raul was reared in a Catholic home. But he says, "We said we were Catholics, but we did not go to church very much." Ester and her family were Baptists, and faithful in church attendance. It was after he began going to church with her that he realized his need of Jesus as Savior, and that he became a Christian.

After Castro came to power in Cuba, the government took over the factory where Garcia was working. "We had no freedom any more to speak our feelings," he remembers. "And I had a big mouth. Somebody told me if I were not quiet I would be mowed down with a machine gun. I did not want to stay under those conditions."

Ester's brother, Luis Rasco Jr., a Baptist pastor in Hialeah, Fla., sent the papers they would need to come to the States.

Now, 24 years later, Raul is retiring. "I'm a home body," he said, "I like to stay home and read and help Ester around the house—but not cook." (One day while Ester was at work, he decided to cook, put on some rice, etc., went off and forgot it, and almost set the house on fire. She told him not to cook any more.)

One of his duties at the Baptist Building has been to take care of the shrubs and flowers. "I like all kinds of flowers," he said. At home he plants both flower and vegetable gardens. He does some bowling at the Broadmoor gym. His major interest, he says, will be to continue work with the people at the Spanish church.

As Farrell Blankenship said in a retirement party given for Garcia in December at the Baptist Building: "Some words that he said we could not understand, but his spirit and humor were always just grand. We'll miss all his greetings each day we come in, but wish him good luck as retirement begins."



Raul Garcia

## Correction

In a Jan. 30 Baptist Record article entitled "Conservatives' Rally Lashes 'Liberals' Deceit," Ken Chafin, Southern Seminary professor of theology, was quoted, saying he designed Good New America simultaneous revival materials. Instead, when he was Home Mission Board evangelism division director 14 years ago, Chafin and his staff designed a Witness Involvement Now (WIN) program—the Home Mission Board's first lay evangelism program. This was a Baptist Press error.

## Annuity Board reports record earnings

DALLAS (BP)—Retirement plan funds administered by the Southern Baptist Annuity Board returned record earnings in 1985.

The Variable Fund's Unit Value

reached an historic high \$5.40, a 31.7 percent increase over the value on Dec. 31, 1984. Previous to last year, the highest Unit Value was recorded in 1983 at \$4.19 per unit. The Variable Fund is composed primarily of common stock.

The Balanced Fund earned 21.7 percent, the highest since 1980 when it returned 21.94 percent. This fund is a mixture of stocks and bonds. The Short Term Fund returned 9.1 percent in 1985. Established in 1982, this fund is invested in short term money market instruments.

The Fixed Fund earned 11.75 percent and is fixed-income assets. This fund has a predetermined rate of

return each year. The 1986 effective annualized rate for the Fixed Fund is 11 percent.

Annuity Board President Darold H. Morgan said Southern Baptists participating in Annuity Board retirement plans tend to be very conservative in which they designate their contributions.

"In 1985, 72 percent of the retirement plan contributions were designated by the members to the members to the Fixed Fund, while 18.8 percent of the money was put in the Balanced Fund, and only 6.7 percent was designated to the Variable Fund." The remaining 2.5 percent was designated to the Short Term Fund

## News note from Rome:

Trastevere Baptist Church, Rome, Italy, has called Amelio Giannetta, Southern Baptist missionary, as pastor and he has accepted. He left Rome for furlough to be in Memphis for six months and his duties at the church will begin in July, reports Flora Holifield.

## Church Growth Conference will feature Win Arn, March 10-11

The 1986 Church Growth Conference set for March 10-11, at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson will feature

one of America's leading specialists in church growth; Win Arn, president of the Church Growth Institute, Pasadena, Calif. Arn is a recognized researcher in the area of church growth. Skilled in conference leading, Arn presents surprising statistics about what leads people to become part of a church, how the church incorporates or fails to incorporate new members into its fellowship, and what principles are in effect for growing churches.

Arn will lead special sessions for pastors, church staff, and Sunday School directors, beginning Monday evening, March 10. These sessions will continue through Tuesday morning and afternoon, and will conclude on Tuesday evening, March 11.

There is a \$25 individual fee and a \$40 church fee for those attending Arn's conference. The church fee entitles any number for a given church to attend. The fee covers the cost of growth materials and reserves a place for lunch on Tuesday, March 11 at Colonial Heights.

In addition to Arn, special evening

conferences will be provided for Sunday School age group workers, deacons, and evangelism committee

"As living organisms, churches seldom stay where they are. They will either grow, or decline. Even churches that seem to be on plateau often will move to either a declining or growing stance." Keith Wilkinson, Sunday School Department director.

chairman. Conference leaders include: Adults — Gordon Donahoe, BSSB, Nashville; Youth—Bob Metcalf, BSSB, Nashville; Children—

Janiece Lunsford, Sugarland, TX; Preschool—Nell Fuller, Park Cities Baptist, Dallas; deacons—Julius Thompson, Church Administration Department, MBCB; and evangelism committees—Guy Henderson, Evangelism Department, MBCB.

There is no conference fee for those attending Sunday School age group, deacon, or evangelism conferences. The fees will apply only to those attending Arn's conference for pastors/staff and Sunday School directors.

The Church Growth Conference is jointly sponsored by the Church Administration, Evangelism, and Sunday School departments. Sessions will begin at 6:45 p.m. on March 10 and will conclude at 9:15 p.m. on March 11. The day session with Arn will be from 9 a.m. until 4:15 p.m. on Tuesday, March 11.

## 15 - Passenger Church Vans

We specialize in Church Vans, both 12 and 15 passenger. We sell to all churches for factory cost plus \$145.00 for service. We also carry used Vans. Call for more information. Ask for Reggie Frierson. (601) 798-8682.

P.S. We also have a special lease plan for the clergy on any Ford, Lincoln, or Mercury.

Dub Herring Ford-Lincoln - Mercury  
Picayune, MS 39466.

# Just for the Record



## Reception honors Bill Barnes

Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, gave a reception Sunday afternoon, Jan. 26, honoring Bill Barnes and his family. Barnes served the church as minister of music for 12 years, from Aug. 15, 1973, until Dec. 31, 1985. The reception was held from 2 until 3:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall of the church. Over 200 persons signed the register and extended best wishes to Barnes, his wife, Sara, and their three children, Trey, 11, Matt, 8, and Ashleigh, 6, as they continue to seek and follow God's will in their lives.

Barnes, a native of Georgia, is a graduate of Georgia State University, and has a Master of Church Music degree from Southwestern Baptist Seminary. Before going to Morrison Heights, he was serving as minister of music and education at Diamond Hill Church, Fort Worth. While in Clinton, he has served as Hinds/Madison Association music director and as area director for the Mississippi Baptist Singing Churchmen. The Barneses live at 1203 Arlington, Clinton.



Zion Church, Pontotoc, recently celebrated the debt retirement on its pastorum which was built in 1981 at the cost of \$54,000. Bobby Clark, pastor of First, Tchula, was the pastor when the home was built. Pictured, (left to right) are Fleetwood Merritt, contractor, Delphia Merritt, Elva McCleskey, Martha Sue Ray, Danny Bullock, pastor, Ray Leeper, Jr., Billy Rex Ray, treasurer and Rob Jackson, music director.

## Names in the News

Mrs. J. C. (Bee) Davis died Nov. 5, 1985. At the time of her death she was representing First Church, Cleveland, on the Executive Committee of Bolivar Baptist Association, the first woman to serve on this body. She had been a member of First, Cleveland, since 1962. Bolivar County Baptist Association has expressed appreciation for the life-long contribution of Mrs. Davis to the kingdom of God through her church and association. She had served in numerous positions of church and associational leadership, including many in Woman's Mis-

sionary Union. "The distinguishing quality in her life was her sincere loyalty to all aspects of world missions" state Frank Pevey, moderator, Bolivar Association, and Vern Daniels, clerk. "She could always be depended upon to fulfill her task in a prompt and responsible manner. Her warm smile and sweet spirit will enrich our lives always."

Steve Russell presented a concert of sacred music at Easthaven Church, Brookhaven, Jan. 26. A reception was held in his honor following the concert.



Leake County Baptist Association honored pastors, deacons and wives (pictured) during Deacon's Emphasis Week.

David Satterwhite is director of missions. A banquet was held at First, Carthage, Jan. 13.



Edon Church, Stringer, recently honored Mrs. Alice Sumrall and Mrs. Thelma Lightsey with plaques for a combined total of 75 years of Sunday School teaching. Mrs. Sumrall has taught different classes for 35 years, and is now the Adult Ladies III teacher. Mrs. Lightsey has taught preschoolers (age 4-5) for 40 years, which includes four generations.

Pictured is David E. Townsend, pastor, presenting plaques to Mrs. Sumrall (left) and Mrs. Lightsey (right), shown with their pupils over the years.

Center Hill Church, Hamilton (Monroe County) rededicated its newly renovated sanctuary, Feb. 2.

"The renovation was done at a cost of \$150,000. The church had to only borrow \$95,000 with \$12,500 pledged on a special 'Lord, Do It Again' Sunday as the church claimed the passage Exodus 36:3-7," states Don Nerren, pastor.

Members on the renovation committee were Dale Pennington, Minnie Nell Baggett, Georgia Cockerham, Judy Cockerham, Monica Blanton, Lonnie Oliver, J. W. McCartney, and Benny Brock.

The renovation included a new vestibule, baptistry and dressing area, pews, carpet and sound system. Stained glass windows which were made in Virginia exclusively for Center Hill Church were installed.

Pryor Construction Company of Tupelo, J.C. Evans of Evans Plumbing and Air Conditioning of Hamilton, and Whit's Music Company of Tupelo served as contractors in the work. The Renovation Committee served as the major contractors in the renovation. "Dale Pennington, a deacon at Center Hill and secretary of the Renovation Committee, did much of the work himself and overseeing the construction. The church honored him with a special resolution on February 2," adds Nerren.

Sand Hill Church, Philadelphia, ordained Elry Ryals as deacon on Dec. 15, 1985.

Union Church (Covington) held an ordination service Jan. 26. Deacons ordained were Raford Mooney and Murphy Wilson.

Ken Stringer, director of missions, Covington and Jeff Davis associate missionary and Ethan Moore, deacon at Temple Church, Hattiesburg, were the speakers. Billy Mitchell is pastor.

The Royal Ambassadors of Lamar Baptist Association held their first Winter Play-Day on Jan. 18 at First Church, Purvis. There were some 70 boys and 17 counselors from six churches participating in the event. They were First Church, Purvis, Calvary, Immanuel, Oloh, Oral, and First Church, Sumrall. Douglas E. Benedict, Sr. is director of missions.

**FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRIES**  
STEEPLES—CROSSES  
WATER HEATERS  
DIAL TOLL FREE  
1-800-231-6035  
Free Color Brochure  
**LITTLE GIANT MANUFACTURING CO., INC.**  
Dept. 61 / Box 518 / Orange, Texas 77630  
IN TEXAS: (409) 823-4246

**OLD BIBLES REBOUND**  
A price, binding and style to meet every need. Quality workmanship guaranteed. Write for illustrated price folder.  
"Internationally known specialists"  
**NORRIS BOOKBINDING CO.**  
Box 305-C — Greenwood, Miss. 38930

TEACHERS-PREACHERS-EVANGELISTS  
**BUY WHOLESALE!**  
and MINISTER THE WORD with SAVINGS

N.T. ON CASSETTE \$11.97 BLANK  
O.T. ON CASSETTE \$39.97 CASSETTES  
KJV-20 Yr. Warranty In 100 Lots  
GIANT PRINT BIBLE \$11.97 C-62's-38c  
AWARD BIBLES \$3.87 C-92's-48c

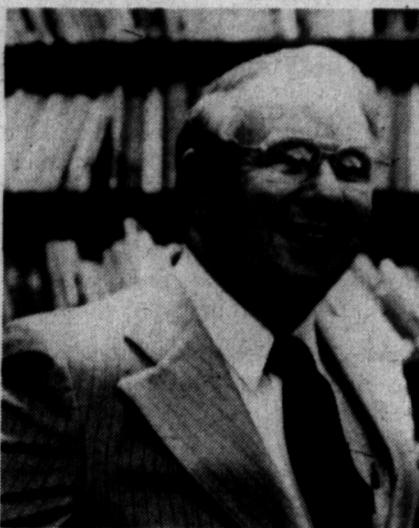
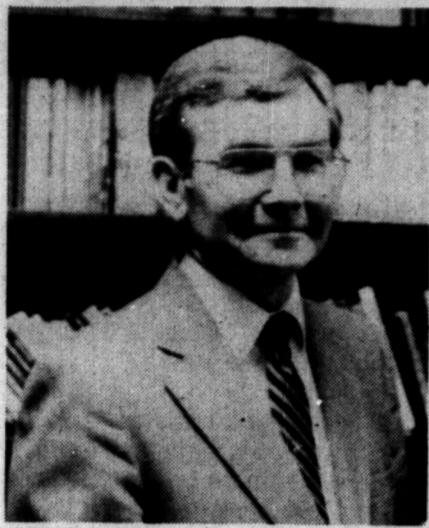
NOTE: Add \$5 Annual Dealer Fee to 1st order.  
Shipping: Add \$2 & 5%. COD's Add \$2.  
Card orders add 4% Service Fee.

ORDER FROM MISSION AMERICA  
VISA MC Dept. 14  
205-863-2635 Roanoke, AL 36274

Pews, pulpits, baptistries,  
stained glass, carpet,  
steeple, chairs,  
tables, lighting,  
folding doors

**Van Winkle Church Furnishings & Pew Upholstery**  
Box 501, Fulton, MS. 38843  
In MS. Toll Free 1-800-624-9627  
Design—Construction Management

We Remodel & Paint



## Book Reviews

**Anderson, Andy; EFFECTIVE METHODS OF CHURCH GROWTH.** Nashville, Broadman, pp. 120. No price given.

An excellent book! It seems to be a summary of Anderson's years of working with church growth.

The theme of the book is "Growing the Church by growing the Sunday School." Anderson shares many ways in which to do this. Some chapter titles are "The Sunday School and Church Growth," "Dedicated Personnel," "Increased Participation," "Quality Product," and "Specific Plan."

The chapter on a "Quality Product" contains some very practical help on how to maintain quality church growth. The author notes that in order for a Sunday School to grow it must have trained workers, space to grow, and must plan for growth.

A very good book for all pastors and staff members interested in church growth.—Reviewed by Greg Potts, pastor, Bluff Springs Church Magnolia.

**THE TWENTY-THIRD PSALM FOR TODAY**, compiled and illustrated by Royal V. Carley (C. R. Gibson Co., Norwalk, Conn., hard cover, \$4.95)

This little gift book extraordinary is filled with color photographs of flowers and birds and other nature scenes. The superb pictures are coordinated with phrases from the twenty-third psalm. Each phrase is accompanied by other quotations from the Bible. Royal V. Carley, artist, photographer, lecturer, writer, and anthologist, in this magnificent compilation has presented words of comfort and consolation.—AWM.

## Revival Dates

**Meadow Grove, 300 Shiloh Road, Brandon:** Feb. 9-12; Sunday services, 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Rick Scarborough, Mobile, Ala., evangelist; Ricky E. Kennedy, pastor.

## Staff Changes

**Flora Church, Flora,** has recently called Bill Price as part-time minister of music. Price formerly served churches in Pelahatchie, Pearl, and West.

**H. C. Bailey** is available for pulpit supply and revivals. He can be contacted at Rt. 4, Box 327, Forest, MS. 39074, telephone 625-7719.

**Kent Cochran**, former staff member at Midway Church, (Lauderdale) and now pastor of Calvary Church, Louisville, will be ordained to the gospel ministry at the evening worship service in the Midway Church on Feb. 16.

**James Fancher** has resigned at First Church, Coffeeville, and has moved to the pastorate of First Church, Monticello.

**Lyndle Davis** is the new pastor at Cherry Creek Church, (Pontotoc) County.

## Mississippi Baptist activities

Feb. 9      Race Relations Sunday (CAC Emphasis)  
 Feb. 9-15    Focus on WMU (WMU Emphasis)  
 Feb. 10-14   MasterLife Workshop; Oak Forest BC, Jackson; 6 p.m., 10th-Noon, 14th (CT)  
 Feb. 13-14   Ministry Specialists Conference; Baptist Building; 1 p.m., 13th-2 p.m., 14th (CoMi)  
 Feb. 15      Small Church Leadership Conference; 9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. (PD)

## Disaster aid checks delivered

Checks for disaster aid following hurricane damage to churches in Gulf Coast Association were sent to Bobby Perry, director of missions, for distribution. Jerry Estes, associational moderator, right, then presented the checks to Richard Colwell, second from right, for \$1,000 for East Howard Church. Also he presented checks to Joe Abel, left, for Trinity Church, and to Harvey Thornton, second from left, for Broadmoor Church. Trinity's check was for \$8,752.00 and Broadmoor's was for \$500.00.

The checks were from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

## Youth leaders discuss problems of teen sex

**ARROWHEAD, Calif. (BP)**—Representatives from 23 denominations and several youth organizations expressed both concern and hope at a meeting called in response to the growing problem of premarital sex among teenagers.

Persons who work with youth leaders and ministers met at Arrowhead Springs Conference Center in early January to explore ways for churches and families to deal with the social, psychological, physical, medical, and spiritual problems related to youth and their sexuality.

Conference participants drafted a statement of concern which underscored "the biblical affirmation that sex is one of God's good gifts to humankind." It urged church leaders "to discover ways to create loving, supportive, accepting, and forgiving relationships to guide young people in their home, church, and educational environments."

The statement also noted that attention to the development of self-esteem and "wholesome relationships rooted in God's love and redemption" are "vital ingredients" in dealing effectively with teenagers' sexual problems.

National studies indicate that sexual activity among America's teenagers is increasing and that a growing number of young people are becoming involved sexually at an earlier age. According to one recent study, 80 percent of today's males and 67 percent of females are sexually active by age 19. Among these young people, half of the boys and 18 percent of the girls reported they first had intercourse at age 13 or younger.

"If we hope to reverse this alarming trend of teenage sexual activity, then focusing on high school kids and college young people is simply not enough," said W. David Lockard of the Christian Life Commission, one of the Southern Baptist participants at the meeting. "Parents and youth leaders in our churches must give increased efforts to the task of educating our early adolescent children about the biblical values related to sex."

The Arrowhead meeting was hosted by Christian author and speaker Josh McDowell and Here's Life Publishers.

## Lottie Moon gifts soar



Gallman Church at Gallman has surpassed its Lottie Moon Offering goal by \$1,000. The largest goal ever reached in the history of the church, up to 1985, had been \$1,700. The 1985 goal was set at \$1,800. Gallman members gave \$2,800 for the foreign missions special offering. Pictured are the pastor, Michael Street and WMU director, Mrs. Mary Berry.

Goss Church (Columbia) reports the largest offering ever given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions. The church gave \$4,439.43 to the special offering in 1985. This amount exceeded the 1984 previous record amount of \$4,253.00.

"The offering is the result of giving because our people believe in missions and missions support. This offering was comprised of varying gifts—everything from penny banks made by the Mission Friends group to the large gifts by adults and every gift in between. We thank the Lord for this offering," states Matt Buckles, pastor.

Pocahontas Church, Hinds-Madison Association, has reached its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal of \$2,400.00. The total amount given is \$2,650.00. Dolton Haggan is pastor. Mildred Whitfield is the Woman's Missionary Union director.

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9  
 Thursday, February 6, 1986

## Workshop to challenge pastors 'look to future'

FORT WORTH, Texas—Pastors will be challenged to "look to the future" during four days of renewal at Southwestern Seminary's 1986 Pastors Conference, March 4-7.

This event is a continuing education workshop and is not related to the pastors conference held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the SBC.

For additional information, contact David Fite, director of continuing education, Southwestern Seminary, Box 22207, Fort Worth, TX 76122.

## Youth ministry lab is set

FORT WORTH, Texas—Registration is now open for Youth Ministry Lab at Southwestern Seminary April 18-20, 1986, a three-day, in-depth conference for youth ministers, workers and other individuals interested in youth ministry.

Join  
**Jim and Joy Yates**  
 on a 16-DAY TOUR of  
 The People's Republic  
 of CHINA  
 Departing July, 1986

For details write  
 P.O. Box 12  
 Yazoo City, MS 39194  
 or call (601) 746-2471 or 746-2540



**Mississippi Valley  
 Gas Company**

Gas gives you more for your money.

Call for Free BROCHURE  
 TOLL FREE 1-800-251-0679  
 TN CALL COLLECT 615-875-0679  
 FIBERGLASS BAPTISTRY CO  
 3511 HIXONPIKE • CHATTANOOGA, TN 37415



IDENTIFY YOUR CHURCH VEHICLES -  
 Buses - Vans - Cars -  
 with NEW Vinyl Lettering -

- Fast!
- Easy to Apply!
- Permanent!
- Professional!
- Economical!

For FREE estimate, call  
 STAMM ADVERTISING  
 120 Upton Drive  
 Jackson, Mississippi 39209  
 (601) 922-3400

## Miskito church costs \$4,700

# Eye glasses find wearers on coast of Honduras

A Clarke County team which went on a medical mission to Honduras in September, 1985, carried with them a copy of eye glasses for distribution on the Miskito coast, in the area near Puerto Lempira.

Mrs. Lavonia McPhearson, of One Wall, one member of the team, reports that when they were checking people's eyes, they found a woman who could not even see "the big E" on the exam chart, and needed strong glasses. "Would you believe we found glasses where she could see all the way down the chart and read fine print in a Bible? She wants to pay us but we said, 'No, that's a gift from people who care, in the States.' Her daughter was also fitted with reading glasses. They sat under a tree three hours reading their Bible while waiting their turn to see the doctor." This is only one example of the many who were fitted with glasses.

The project was mentioned in "Faces and Places," in the Baptist Record, Oct. 3, 1985. In response, Mrs. Frances Woods of Water Valley who read the article, wrote Mrs. McPhearson.

## Senior adult conferences are set for Gulfshore

"Walking With God — One Is Never Alone," will be the theme of the four Senior Adult Retreats at Gulfshore, according to J. Clark Hensley, Mississippi Baptist Convention family ministry consultant.

Senior Adult I — May 12-16 will have Chester Swor, Jackson as preacher. Senior Adult II — May 19-21 and Senior Adult III — May 22-24 will feature James Richardson as the preacher and Bible Study leader. Senior Adult IV — Aug. 19-23, will be led by Fred Mosely of Lucedale as preacher and Fuller B. Saunders of Jackson as Bible teacher. Music leadership will be given by Perry Robinson, Ellisville; James Hayes, Hattiesburg; and R. L. and Beth Sigrest, Yazoo City with Art Nelson, Jackson, organist.

Swor is known by Mississippi Baptists as the dean of inspirational

son that she and her fellow church members were collecting glasses to send to Honduras, and that she was contacting Global Outreach, Box 1, 509 South St., Tupelo, concerning that project.

In Puerto Lempira, Landon and Pat Wilkerson, independent missionaries, work with the Miskito Indians, through their churches and with a clinic. First Church, Yazoo City, through its direct missions program, is one church which helps to support this ministry. The Wilkersons report 33 churches and preaching points in La Mosquitia. In January, 1986, 30 to 40 persons were awaiting baptisms. "In 1985, there were 500 baptisms and reconciliations.

Mrs. Wilkerson said, "We are trying with the Lord's help to rebuild the wood (green pine) churches with cement block. If a church or Sunday School class is looking for a project, this would be a good one. To build a 16 x 20 church comes to the total cost of \$4,700." Global Outreach will be sponsoring construction groups in Honduras again this year.

preachers and conference leaders ministering to all age groups. James Richardson is pastor of First church, Madison, and Fred Mosely, pastor-emeritus at First church, Lucedale was long-time associate executive director of Home Mission Board and was director of the School of Christian Training at New Orleans Seminary.

Conferences dealing with the concerns of Senior Adults along with fellowship and recreational activities will complete the format of each conference.

The cost for the five-day conference is \$109.85 per person and the three day conference cost is \$59.75 per person including all meals and lodging.

Reservations may be made after March 1 by writing Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, Miss. 39571 with an enclosure of \$30 per person each reservation.

## Israeli government will examine Mormon question

Jerusalem, Israel (EP) — The Israeli government defeated a no-confidence motion, rejecting demands to stop construction of a Mormon study center near the Mount of Olives. The official statement was the first time the government had taken a position on the issue since controversy erupted over the Brigham Young University Study Center six months ago.

Opponents say the seven-story building will become a missionary center, and will be used to convert Jews to the Mormon faith. Israeli Energy Minister Moshe Shahal said

the country had no legal means of stopping the building, but assured opponents that "the government opposes missionary activity and will guarantee that it does not happen." Brigham Young University officials have signed a statement promising that the new facility will not be used for proselytizing.

The cabinet agreed to form a ministerial committee to "examine the question of the Mormon university of Mount Scopus in Jerusalem." Economics Minister Gad Ya'acobi was one of three cabinet members opposing this measure.

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly is accepting applications of college age students for employment for the 1986 summer staff, according to Frank Simmons, assembly manager.

The assembly begins its summer program on May 12 and continues through Aug. 23. Available positions include food services, Red Cross trained lifeguards, housekeeping, registration and office, first aid, and grounds and maintenance.

The Assembly provides a program of activities for the staff with the opportunity for service as well as personal spiritual growth and development.

Interested college age students are encouraged to meet with Simmons during the week of Feb. 17-26 on various college campuses across Mississippi where he will be interviewing prospective employees. The recruiting schedule is as follows:

Feb. 17, Mississippi Delta Jr. College BSU Center, 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.; Delta State University BSU Center, 3:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.; Feb. 18, Blue Mountain College BSU Center, 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.; Ole Miss BSU Center, 5 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.;

Feb. 19, Miss. State BSU Center, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Feb. 20, Miss. College

BSU office, 12 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.; Feb. 24, U.S.M. BSU Center, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.;

Feb. 25, Jones Jr. College BSU Center, 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., East Central Jr. College, 3 p.m. - 5 p.m.;

Feb. 26, Miss. College BSU Office, 12 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For additional information about an interview or a staff application, contact Frank Simmons at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Henderson Point, Pass Christian, Miss., 39571, or the BSU director of the local college campus.

## Uganda missionaries are unharmed in fighting

NAIROBI, Kenya (BP) — Southern Baptist missionaries in Uganda reported they were safe and moving about with caution Jan. 27 as the rebel National Resistance Army consolidated control of Kampala, the Ugandan capital.

Missionaries in Kenya monitored shortwave radio broadcasts Jan. 27 from Jim Rice in Kampala, who said he and the other 11 missionaries in the capital were unharmed and violence had subsided. Rebel forces also took Entebbe and Jinja, the country's second largest city, as government troops reportedly fled toward Kenya and Sudan.

In Kampala, the Baptist bookstore and other mission properties were reported undamaged.

The missionaries likely will remain in Uganda as the fighting ends, though

temporary evacuation to neighboring Kenya is an option.

"They have been through so much with (former Ugandan dictator) Idi Amin and the changing of governments that have followed that they know pretty well when it becomes imperative for them to leave if they can get out," said Davis Saunders, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's director for eastern and southern Africa.

The U.S. State Department and rebel leader Yoweri Museveni discussed an airlift for embassy personnel and other Americans, but it may prove unnecessary.

Roads to Kenya were expected to reopen by the end of the week and news reports indicated the United States appeared ready to recognize a

## Southwestern prof among top scholars

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — E. Earle Ellis, visiting professor of theology at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, has been identified as one of five American scholars at the forefront of New Testament studies.

The recognition came in a recent Publishers Weekly article, "The Renaissance of Evangelical Protestantism," written by Leslie Keylock, associate professor at Moody Bible Institute, Chicago.

Keylock surveyed 20 evangelical experts and asked them to name the outstanding scholars in theological and biblical studies. A list of those most-mentioned was compiled from some 540 who were named at least once.

Ellis, who came to Southwestern from New Brunswick Theological Seminary in New Jersey, identified Pauline studies as his area of greatest interest, followed by the gospels, especially Luke.

He holds graduate degrees from Wheaton and the University of Edinburgh and has studied at the universities of Tübingen, Gottingen, and Marburg.

government headed by Museveni. His National Resistance Army forces seem to be disciplined and not violent toward the civilian population, according to officials. Missionaries in Kampala confirmed that impression.

Thirty-one Southern Baptist missionaries and journeymen are assigned to Uganda, but about half of them are currently in Kenya or in the United States on furlough.

Ousted head of state Gen. Tito Okello held power for barely six months after overthrowing the government of Milton Obote last July.

**CHURCH FURNITURE**  
At a price  
Any Church Can Afford  
Write or call.

**WAGONER BROS.**  
MFG. CO.  
Tel. (501) 675-2468  
Beaurevoir, Arkansas  
72927

**FORESTRY ENTERPRISES**  
will assist private timber owners with  
•timber management  
•timber estimates •timber sales  
Have your own representative in the handling of your timber.  
Know how much of what you have.

*Timber is a valuable crop, don't handle it carelessly.*  
Paul Waldrop,  
Registered Forester #19  
P.O. Box 381, Yazoo City, MS 39194  
601-746-4400

**CHURCH STEEPLES**

- BAPTISTRIES
- WALL CROSSES
- BAPTISTRY WATER HEATERS
- COLONIAL CONTEMPORARY AND MODERN DESIGNS
- ERCTION WITH COMPANY CRANES AND CREWS AVAILABLE
- WRITE OR CALL FOR COLOR LITERATURE AND PROPOSALS

TOLL FREE  
800-241-3152  
IN GEORGIA CALL  
COLLECT  
404 993 9960

Glasstech Plastics, Inc.  
P.O. Box 910  
Roswell, GA 30077

*Manufacturing Fine Church Products for 20 Years*

## Elder gifts WMU

Lloyd Elder recognized the close ties shared by Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, and the Sunday School Board at the recent WMU Executive Board Meeting in Birmingham. Elder presented WMU, SBC, with five pieces of pulpit furniture to celebrate its move into the new national headquarters building and its move into a second century of missions work. Pictured with him at right is Carolyn Weatherford, WMU, SBC, executive director; in the background, Dorothy Sample, national WMU president.



# THE VILLAGE VIEW

## The Baptist Children's Village

Paul N. Nunnery, Executive Director

P. O. Box 11308, Jackson, MS 39213, (601) 922-2242



## Gifts of Honor and Memory

Continued from December and January

Mrs. Elmer Adcock  
Mr. & Mrs. William Y. Sudduth  
Mrs. Maggie Lou Adcock  
The Joe Bunch Family  
Mrs. Margaret Aden  
Mrs. Flo Scott Holt  
Mr. Floyd Alexander  
Sr. Adult Sunday School Class  
Bogue Chitto Baptist Church  
Mr. A. C. Allnut  
Elizabeth Hale Group  
First Baptist Church  
Jackson, Miss.  
Don Amweg  
Mr. & Mrs. Ed Watt  
Mrs. Billie Nance Anderson  
Miss Evelyn Hellen  
Dr. D. C. Applegate  
Joe & Miriam Curry  
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Harpole  
Mrs. Tempie Arnold  
First Baptist Church, Bude  
Mr. Eugene H. Bailey  
Frances T. Bryant  
Gov. Thomas L. Bailey  
Ernest & Bertha Johnson  
Mr. Ellett Baker  
Dr. & Mrs. Jim Lewis  
Mr. Howard Bankston  
Mrs. Audrey S. Ellzey  
Mrs. Diane Gill Barnett  
Margaret K. Thomas  
Mrs. Ella Mae Batson  
Mr. & Mrs. J. A. "Bud" Thigpen  
Mr. Roy Glen Batson, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Frank B. Hutton  
Rev. & Mrs. Paul Leber  
Jean & Charles Stacy  
Mr. & Mrs. R. W. Herbert  
Mr. & Mrs. Bingham Witty  
Rebecca Smith  
Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Stennett  
Mr. & Mrs. Benton E. Cain  
Mrs. Edna E. Johnson  
Mrs. Mabel Odle  
Mrs. C. G. Prouty  
Luella B. Varnado  
Mr. & Mrs. N. H. Hatten  
Arthur Belk  
Lon & Maudaline Pepper  
Mrs. Mable Bell  
Dr. & Mrs. Gary Jackson  
Mrs. Mary Lucile Berry  
Mrs. J. G. Hammond  
Wade & M. Gayle Donnell  
Mr. M. C. Billingsley  
Mr. & Mrs. A. T. Howard  
Mrs. Betty Black  
Dr. & Mrs. John H. Douglas  
Lorie Ray Blair  
Sallie B. Maize  
Mr. Edna Blaylock  
Mrs. Fred Spain  
Marion D. Boelman  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Kimzey  
Mrs. Retha Bouchillon  
Mr. & Mrs. Ad Rutledge  
Houston Bowen  
Mrs. Grady E. Morgan  
Mr. Clyde Boyd  
Senior Adult Sunday School Class  
Bogue Chitto Baptist Church  
Mrs. Russell Boyett  
Mrs. C. E. Merrill  
Miss Jeanne Merrill  
Mr. Joel Bramlett  
Lynda S. Pointer  
Mr. John Bratton  
Mrs. L. Taylor  
Mr. R. B. Breazeale  
The Floyd Hill Family  
Mr. George Breibar  
John & Billie Whitfield  
Carmie Breland  
Mr. & Mrs. Hobart Daniels  
William G. Dase  
Miss Lottie Brewer  
Union Baptist Church, Sardis  
Mrs. Jimmie Bridges  
Euzelian Sunday School  
Raymond  
Doris & Lurline Stewart  
Wilson & Lottie W. Grantham  
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Ogletree

Mr. & Mrs. George O. Miles  
Mr. & Mrs. L. K. Clark  
Mr. Alvie Brooks  
Mrs. Temple Craft  
Oscar L. Brooks  
E. W. Permenter  
Robert S. Brown  
Mr. & Mrs. William Earl Cain  
Mrs. Jewell Busbin  
Ms. Callie D. Taylor  
Mrs. Gladys D. Pope  
Earl and Geraldine Calhoun  
Dr. & Mrs. George H. Dukes  
Mr. & Mrs. Garron P. McLain  
Geraldine Calhoun  
Mr. & Mrs. Amos Areder, Sr.  
John Earl Calhoun  
Mr. & Mrs. Amos Areder, Sr.  
Mrs. Jane Camp  
Mrs. Thomas Fite Paine  
Mrs. Louise Camp  
Mr. & Mrs. Billy Pruitt & Family  
Mr. C. D. Campbell  
Mike & Kathy Nipper  
Mr. Jack Campbell  
Mr. & Mrs. Hiram E. Davis  
P. L. Campbell, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. Randy Rose  
Mrs. Harry (Mary) Campbell, Jr.  
Dr. & Mrs. Kirby P. Walker & Staff  
Sam G. Carlisle  
Mr. & Mrs. Johnny Towery, Jr.  
Mrs. Dorothy Carlton  
Mrs. F. M. Daughdrill  
Robert Carlton  
Mr. & Mrs. Herman Ford  
Casey Carmichael  
Mrs. Martha B. Thompson  
Mr. Alan Carpenter  
Central School Supply Company  
Rev. Ralph Carpenter  
Mrs. J. L. Cutts  
Mr. J. V. Carr  
Mrs. J. V. Carr  
Mr. Dwight Carter  
Bob & Jane McCord  
Mr. Henry Lee Case  
Miss Myree B. Wooldridge  
Mrs. Robert E. Rushing  
Mr. Stephen G. Coleman  
Mr. Wheeler C. Cathey  
Eugene I. Farr  
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert Gilmore  
Mrs. Jimmie Stringer  
Mrs. Glade Dyess  
Mrs. Minta M. Hicks  
Robert & Frances Kemp  
Mrs. Irene Mayfield  
Mr. & Mrs. Oliver King  
Mr. & Mrs. Harmon Alley  
J. Lee Chambers  
Mr. & Mrs. C. E. Johnson  
Lucille Channell  
Mr. & Mrs. Quincy R. Hodges  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Harrell  
Mr. & Mrs. John Mulligan  
Mrs. R. O. Traylor  
Mrs. J. B. Brown  
Mr. A. T. Cleveland  
Forest Baptist Church  
Mr. Ephraim Cohen  
Edith M. Aldridge  
Fletcher Coker, Sr.  
Billie T. Haley  
Mrs. C. C. Collins  
Mrs. Thomas Fite Paine  
Bill Conlee  
Charles & Nancy Nordan  
Elizabeth Cooks  
Billie T. Haley  
Rev. William Lowery Cooper  
Mrs. Sam A. Peebles  
Nellie Ford Smith  
Mr. Billy Cornett  
James & Patsy Gray  
Mrs. George Cowan, Sr.  
Mr. & Mrs. S. F. Dribben  
Mrs. Vesta Cox  
Ruth Sunday School, Tupelo  
Mr. Maynard Craft  
Mr. & Mrs. Louis K. Bell  
Mrs. Howard (Effie) Cranford  
Sonny & Barbara Montgomery

## Honor Roll of Churches

Each January, we review and analyze cash gifts received in Village offices during the preceding calendar year. One of the more interesting and gratifying facets of this analysis is a listing of Mississippi Baptist churches in the order of their designated cash gifts to our ministry — "the Honor Roll of Churches". In 1985, local Baptist churches contributing designated

gifts, in any amount, to our ministry, aggregated 1549. According to Convention Board offices, there are 1974 different cooperating churches in the state. Of these, 193 made designated gifts of \$1,000.00 or more to the BCV and were received in our offices during 1985 by December 31. According to our records, these "top 193" churches are:

1. FBC, Water Valley, Yalobusha
2. FBC, Jackson, Hinds-Madison
3. Morrison Heights, Hinds-Madison
4. FBC, Vicksburg, Warren
5. FBC, Greenville, Washington
6. FBC, Aberdeen, Monroe
7. FBC, Pontotoc, Pontotoc
8. FBC, Louisville, Winston
9. Rolling Creek, Clarke
10. Raymond, Hinds-Madison
11. Meadville, Franklin
12. Bunker Hill, Marion
13. Harrisburg, Lee
14. Indian Springs, Perry
15. FBC, Coffeeville, Yalobusha
16. FBC, McComb, Pike
17. FBC, Gulfport, Gulf Coast
18. Mt. Zion, Northwest
19. FBC, Indianola, Sunflower
20. Forest, Scott
21. FBC, Crystal Springs, Copiah
22. Liberty, Mississippi
23. FBC, Olive Branch, Northwest
24. FBC, Florence, Rankin
25. Parkway, Hinds-Madison
26. East Fork, Mississippi
27. FBC, Quitman, Clarke
28. Bethany, Jeff Davis
29. Calvary, Jackson, Hinds-Madison
30. Hillcrest, Jackson, Hinds-Madison
31. FBC, Laurel, Jones
32. Woodland Hills, Hinds-Madison
33. Tyertown, Walthall
34. FBC, Bruce, Calhoun
35. FBC, Brandon, Rankin
36. Moorehead, Sunflower
37. Sylvarena, Smith
38. Noxapater, Winston
39. FBC, Booneville, Prentiss
40. Eupora, Webster
41. St. Boulevard, Lauderdale
42. Mt. Moriah, Lincoln
43. Briar Hill, Rankin
44. Tate Street, Alcorn
45. North Batesville, Panola
46. FBC, Summit, Pike
47. Calvary, Lee
48. Williamsburg, Attala
49. FBC, Rolling Fork, Sharkey-Isaq.
50. Morgantown, Adams
51. Main Street, Hattiesburg, Lebanon
52. FBC, Columbus, Lowndes
53. FBC, Itta Bena, Leflore
54. Pine Grove, Lauderdale
55. Richton, Perry
56. Hollendale, Washington
57. FBC, Amory, Monroe
58. FBC, Winona, Montgomery
59. FBC, New Albany, Union
60. Beulah, Simpson
61. Enon, Walthall
62. Colonial Hgts., Hinds-Madison
63. Alta Woods, Hinds-Madison
64. Northminster, Hinds-Madison
65. Pearl River Baptist Assn.
66. FBC, Meridian, Lauderdale
67. FBC, Grenada, Grenada
68. Northwest Bapt. Assn.
69. Ingomar, Union County
70. FBC, Columbia, Marion
71. Unity, Pearl River
72. Bassfield, Jeff Davis
73. Sallis, Attala
74. FBC, Batesville, Panola
75. Highland, Lauderdale
76. FBC, Clinton, Hinds-Madison
77. FBC, Picayune, Pearl River
78. FBC, Anguilla, Sharkey-Isaq.
79. Shiloh, Calhoun
80. FBC, Inverness, Sunflower
81. Mt. Horeb, Lauderdale
82. FBC, Tupelo, Lee
83. FBC, Magee, Simpson
84. Petal Harvey, Lebanon
85. Gray's Creek, Northwest
86. FBC, Hattiesburg, Lebanon
87. Broadmoor, Hinds-Madison
88. New Palestine, Pearl River
89. FBC, Senatobia, Northwest
90. Ephesus, Scott

Mrs. W. G. Mize  
Mrs. W. R. Boone  
Naomi Sunday School, Louisville  
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford W. Wooden  
Mrs. Margaret Keeton  
Truth Seekers Sunday School, Grenada  
Mrs. Etha Littlejohn & Children  
Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Littlejohn  
Billie Nowlin  
Ora Mae McAlpin  
Ruth Sunday School, Magee  
Dr. Kermit D. McGregor  
Mrs. Clytie Russell  
Kenneth Scott Harrison  
Melissa & Greg Merchant  
Ella Taylor  
Lou Hayes  
Mark Stafford  
Charles Benton  
Mrs. Clara Mize  
Golden Circle Sunday School, Jackson

Myron & Helen Squires  
Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Sullivan  
Mrs. Gray G. Ferrall  
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert Thomas  
Mr. & Mrs. Shirley Willard  
Mr. Nick Walker  
Lucy Emma Penwell  
Mrs. Winnie Wall  
TEL Sunday School, Charleston  
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Weiss  
Employees Maison Weiss  
Mrs. Charles Tolbert Wilkinson  
Mr. & Mrs. N. G. Augustus, Jr.  
Mr. & Mrs. George D. Wynne, Sr.  
Fred & Rose Powers  
Mrs. D. W. Young  
Richard & Judy

### Gifts of Honor

Miss Mai Ellis Allen  
Mrs. Charles D. Wilson  
Mrs. H. P. Ates  
Mr. & Mrs. B. R. Taylor

# Baptist Record

- Life and Work: *Trust Christ*
- Uniform: *Use possessions wisely*
- Bible Book: *A call to true faith . . .*

## A call to true faith and riches

By Billy McKay

Background Passage: 1 Timothy 6:2b-21

Focal Passage: 1 Timothy 6:6-20

**Introduction.** Throughout 1 Timothy Paul has emphasized right doctrine (cf. 1:3-4) and right living (cf. 1:5). When a church believes right it will live right. The result is not only God's blessings within the church but also it will lead to the salvation of the lost (cf. 1 Tim. 2:4) which is the object of the Great Commission (cf. Matt. 28:18-20).

The call to true faith and true riches in life involves the following:

**1. We must have the right priority in life (6:6-10).** The principle of right priorities is pointed out in 6:6-10 as being godliness in contrast to materialism. Note first his counsel about right priorities (6:6-8). Every believer should seek to be godly (6:6).

A threefold caution is set forth in

Godliness must be a priority in the believer's life for it brings contentment. Twice (6:6, 8) contentment is said to be a result of godliness.

The false teachers did not agree with this and said that material things brought contentment. There is a twisted and distorted view of Christianity often heard today—especially by religious speakers on television who say that when you become a Christian God becomes your employer who goes to work for you to make you wealthy. Furthermore, this view says if you are not rich there is something wrong with your faith. Verse 6 says that godliness in itself is gain. Godliness does not give financial gain; it itself is gain when accompanied with contentment. Note, second, his caution about right priorities (6:9-10).

A threefold caution is set forth in

6:9. First, there is caution against "temptation." He says believers can become entangled with things and omit the Lord. Madison Avenue advertising today convinces many believers that they do not only need riches but that they deserve them! Second, there is the caution against falling into a "snare." It is the "desire" or "will" (6:9a) that is the snare or trap. This snare or pit gets the believer out of fellowship. Third, there is the caution against "lusts." There is a logical progression here. When one yields to temptation he will become trapped with lusts which drown and/or destroy him. The word "drown" in 6:9 means you will wind up on the bottom in life. "Destruction" refers to ruin from the outside as loss of health, business reverse, crop failure, etc. "Perdition" refers to self-inflicted problems and miseries brought on from within.

Verse 10 is one of the most misquoted and misunderstood verses in the Bible. It literally says that the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil. It does not say that money is the root of all evil.

**II. We must have the right purpose in life (6:11-16).** A. Negatively, the right purpose in life is to flee from the love of money (6:11 w/ 6:10). B. Positively, the believer is to "follow" ("run swiftly after") six things: 1. Righteousness. This deals with our attitude toward others. Don't act unrighteously before others. 2. Godliness. This refers to the Godward life. 3. Faith. This is a confidence in God that causes us to depend on God. 4. Love. This means we have the right motive in everything we do. 5. Patience. We are to endure until Jesus comes. 6. Meekness. This is an attitude which is opposite to selfishness and pride. 6:12-16 stresses the importance of having a good testimony before unbelievers. If we do this our works will carry over into eternity.

"Eternal life" in 6:12 does not refer to the initial experience of salvation but to those things which carry over into eternity. 6:13-16 sets forth a beautiful illustration of how Jesus gave a powerful witness before Pilate.

**III. We must have a right perspective in life (6:17-21).** Again, Paul charges Timothy to urge believers to sort out the things temporal from the things which are eternal and to pursue a life that will make them "rich in good works" (6:18). 6:20 again reminds Timothy and us of the importance to follow a clear gospel of grace which alone can lead to blessings in time and eternity.

**Conclusion.** In 6:20 Paul gives a plea and a command to Timothy to "keep that which was committed to his trust." In 1:11 this is explained: "the glorious gospel." There is no doubt that the salvation and nurture of people is the overarching purpose of the local church.

Billy McKay is pastor, First, Belzoni.

## Use possessions wisely

By Gus Merritt

Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 12:13-21, 27-34

When teaching on the stewardship of possessions, a mistake is made with the statement, "God only asks for one tenth of our possessions and lets us keep the other nine tenths." It is right to tithe if you keep in mind this is a minimum or a beginning point in stewardship. If you have committed your life to Jesus, he is to be Lord of all. A new convert was being baptized and he told his pastor, "I have removed everything from my pockets except my billfold. I want that to be baptized, too!" Jesus has a right to tell us how to use all of our possessions.

In the focal passage, Luke 12:13-21, 27-34, Jesus puts possessions in proper perspective in the kingdom. In the preceding verses, Jesus warned his disciples they would be brought before the authorities for his sake. He told

them not to worry. The Holy Spirit would help them. As a certain man in the crowd heard this, he asked Jesus to help him in getting his brother to divide the family inheritance with him.

According to Jewish law, the elder brother would receive two thirds of the inheritance and the younger brother would receive one third. Apparently the man had been preoccupied with this legal altercation and did not hear much Jesus was saying. The only thing he caught was that men would be brought into court.

How many times have people sat in worship services and heard very little of the message because they have had their minds on the acquiring of material possessions? Mark Twain said at the turn of the twentieth century, "The dollar has become man's god, and how to get it his religion."

The covetous spirit had possessed the man's mind and heart. He was not interested in making a commitment to Jesus, but in having Jesus help him gain more possessions. How often the only motive for tithing is so that God will be obligated, we think, to give us more possessions. Jesus tells the man life is not in the superabundance of material possessions. What a person is is more important than what he has.

To reinforce his teaching against covetousness, Jesus gave the parable of the rich fool (Luke 12:16-21). Notice in the parable, the rich man used six personal pronouns and six possessive pronouns. Not once did he think of God or ask God's advice as to what he should do with his possessions. He only consulted with himself. He thought only of himself. When persons are wrapped up in themselves, they make small packages.

The rich man had more than he needed, while many probably lived

near him who did not have all they needed. Instead of sharing he hoarded. Do not confuse saving with hoarding. When you put away for a purpose to obtain something needed later, you are saving. However, when you put away possessions just to accumulate more possessions, you are hoarding. Hoarding doesn't help anyone. It doesn't help the one hoarding because he doesn't need it and will never use all of it. It will be left for someone else. It doesn't help others who are in need because they cannot have the use of it to meet their needs. The rich fool never learned the lesson that it is more important to know how to use possessions than how to acquire them. Another lesson he did not learn is, "What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul" (Mt. 16:26)?

In Luke 12:27-34, Jesus taught us that God will meet all of our needs if we will put him first. This is the cure

said that if he had the opportunity to begin his ministry all over again, one significant change he would make—his preaching would emphasize comfort and encouragement to a greater degree.

The invitation of Christ in vs. 28-30, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened . . . Take my yoke upon you . . . For my yoke is easy and my burden is light," is paraphrased by William Barclay to read, "The life I give you to live is not a burden to gall you. Your task, your life is made to measure to fit your perfectly."

That is his invitation and millions have found fulfillment and peace within it. The problem in the majority of Christian's lives, however, is their failure to trust his promise that he will ease life's burdens, that he will not add a burden that "galls," that he will give us a life "made to measure."

Yes, for many of us as believers our code-word might well be blue, for we live with a sense of defeat. But the code-word of Christ is green, for he says, "Trust me. You can make it, with my help."

McLeod is pastor, 1st, Hattiesburg.

for covetousness. God takes care of the lesser things of his creation; therefore he will meet the needs of his children. Jesus told us in verse 31, if we will put God's business first, he will take better care of our business than we can.

The emphasis is upon giving rather than getting. This is true throughout the Bible. There must be receivers in order to have givers, but our predisposition should be to give. One who has a giving spirit will receive more from God in order to be able to give more. The rich fool discovered that to receive and not give causes you to forfeit what you have already received.

In summation: 1. Covetousness robs us and others of God's blessings. 2. Possessions should be a means to an end and not an end in themselves. The end should be God directed. 3. Whatever is important to us will claim our attention (Lk. 12:34). 4. Covetousness, the inordinate desire for possessions, is self-centered while giving to those in need and to missions is God-centered.

Gus Merritt is pastor, Clarke-Venable, Decatur.

## Trust Christ

By Peter McLeod

Matthew 11:1-30 (Focal: 11:2-6, 25-30)

I read about a bookstore which developed an imaginative way of dealing with the problem that all bookstores face—how to be helpful to customers who want assistance without offending those who only want to browse. The idea was simple, yet effective. When customers entered the store, they were asked to attach one of two available pins to their coat or dress. The red pin said, "Wait on me." The blue one read, "Just browsing."

I think it might be wise for churches to come up with a similar system for those coming to the worship services. Ushers could greet each person in the vestibule with a choice of pins. One could be green, for the pastures of Psalm 23, indicating, "I need rest." Another could be red, for the fire of Pentecost, saying, "My life needs power." Yet another could be black, starting eloquently a feeling of despair or hopelessness. The possibilities are endless, but the results could be electrifying for the

preacher or teacher as they stand before such a congregation preparing to share God's word. What a visual and graphic way of confronting the many deep and personal needs within a group!

In the focal passages of our study this week, two colors could be utilized very effectively—blue for John the Baptist and green for the invitation of Jesus.

(1) Blue for John the Baptist (vs. 2-6).

Why blue? Because this was obviously a "down time" in John's life and ministry. Imprisoned by Herod Antipas because of his blistering denunciation of the king's adultery and marriage to Herodias, John had a great deal of time to brood and ponder his own ministry and that of Jesus. The arid, desolate castle at Macaherus, east of the Dead Sea, lends itself to that kind of introspection. His growing conviction that Jesus was not "fleshing out" his own expectations of the promised Messiah led John to send his disciples to Christ with the question, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" (v. 3, NIV).

The problem John struggled with is one most convinced Christians face from time to time, misguided expectations about Jesus. Some see him as a "spiritual supermarket," available to meet their any and every need. Others see him as a military Messiah, ready to bless their national and political policies regardless of the end results.

Jesus, as he comes to us in Scripture, is not some raw power lying about ready to be harnessed for any enterprise that suits our fancy. He is not elastic plastic waiting to be shaped to our personal purposes. He is God, self-determining, self-asserting and totally sovereign, carrying out his self-proclaimed mission of helping the "blind receive sight, the lame walk . . . and preaching the good news to the poor" (v. 5).

(2) Green for the invitation of Christ

Why green? Because our day is a day when men and women desperately need the rest and encouragement that only Christ can bring.

I heard the great pastor/preacher, R. G. Lee, preach on only one occasion, in Dallas, Texas just a few years before his death. In that sermon, he

CARRIER ROUTE 39  
005-DTN BENNETT HAROLD 163 1-31  
901 COMMERCE ST EXEC COMM SBC NASHVILLE TN 37203

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

Baptist Record

February 6, 1986